

Below is the HQDA message announcing the introduction of the Black Beret into the clothing bag, effective 3 May 04.

The Clothing Initial Issue Points will begin to issue the black beret instead of the garrison cap to all Soldiers receiving a Phase II issue as of 3 May 04. Authorization is 2 per Soldier. Berets will be issued to enlisted Soldiers (Active Army, USAR and ARNG).

Soldiers that have already received their Phase II clothing issue will receive the black beret at their AIT site or 1st unit of assignment.

Soldiers in AIT and OSUT will receive berets from the assets in the CIF by 1 June 04. These berets will not be treated as OCIE, but as a personal item. AIT/OSUT sites have already been asked to provide their requirement for berets to TRADOC NLT 30 Apr 04.

ROTC/USMA/OCS cadets are authorized to wear the black beret upon commissioning. Officers will purchase the black beret from the Army Military Clothing Sales Stores (AMCSS). Distinctive Unit Insignia (DUI)/unit crest will not be worn until Soldier arrives at his/her 1st unit of assignment.

Message also addresses the proper wear of the black beret. Please ensure Soldiers are trained how to properly wear the beret in addition to the proper wear of the class A uniform. Soldiers will be authorized to wear the beret during the Inspection Period 4, and then permanently beginning with Family Day Activities immediately prior to graduation.

THIS MESSAGE AMENDS MESSAGES 201405ZOCT03 AND 010801ZOCT03.

1. BLACK BERET CLOTHING BAG IMPLEMENTATION:

A. EFFECTIVE 3 MAY 04 BLACK BERETS WITH FLASH ARE AUTHORIZED IN THE FY 04 ACTIVE ARMY MALE AND FEMALE CLOTHING BAGS AS FOLLOWS:

ITEMS OF ISSUE QTY UNIT COST TOTAL COST

BERET, BLACK W/FLASH 2 \$10.10 \$20.20

B. BERETS WILL BE ISSUED TO ENLISTED (ACTIVE ARMY, USAR, AND ARNG) DURING INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING FROM THE CLOTHING INITIAL ISSUE POINTS DURING THE PHASE II CLOTHING ISSUE. THE ACTIVE ARMY, USAR AND ARNG WILL WEAR BERETS AS THE STANDARD-ISSUE HEADGEAR.

C. THE FY04 CLOTHING REPLACEMENT ALLOWANCES FOR ACTIVE ARMY ENLISTED

PERSONNEL IS AS FOLLOWS:

ENLISTED MALE ENLISTED FEMALE

BASIC STANDARD BASIC STANDARD

\$7.07 \$10.10 \$7.07 \$10.10

D. THE USAR AND ARNG WILL REPLACE ENLISTED BLACK BERET USING THE ISSUE-IN-KIND SYSTEM.

E. OFFICERS WILL PURCHASE BLACK BERET FROM THE ARMY MILITARY CLOTHING SALES STORES.

F. SUPPLY SERGEANTS WILL REMOVE BERETS FROM THE SOLDIERS (ACTIVE ARMY, USAR, AND ARNG) DA FORM 3645, ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING AND INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT (OCIE) RECORDS.

G. BERETS CURRENTLY IN CENTRAL ISSUE FACILITIES (CIF)(ACTIVE ARMY) WILL BE ISSUED TWO EACH TO SOLDIERS IN ADVANCE INDIVIDUAL TRAINING (AIT) AND ONE-STATION UNIT TRAINING (OSUT). UPON COMPLETION OF THE ISSUE TO SOLDIERS IN AIT AND OSUT BERETS WILL BE ISSUED TO ENLISTED AND OFFICERS UNTIL THE CIF INVENTORY IS EXHAUSTED.

H. BERETS CURRENTLY IN CLOTHING ISSUE POINTS (USAR AND ARNG) WILL BE ISSUED TWO EACH TO SOLDIERS TO ENLISTED AND OFFICERS UNTIL THE INVENTORY IS EXHAUSTED.

I. THE GARRISON CAP FOR MALES AND FEMALE IS ELIMINATED FROM THE CLOTHING BAG (ACTIVE ARMY). THE GARRISON CAP WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED BY SROTC/JROTC ONLY.

2. BLACK BERET WEAR POLICY (AR 670-1, WEAR AND APPEARANCE OF ARMY UNIFORMS AND INSIGNIA):

A. THE BLACK BERET BECAME THE STANDARD HEADGEAR FOR UTILITY UNIFORMS ON 14 JUNE 2001. THE BERET CONSISTS OF A WOOLEN KNITTED OUTER SHELL (LINED OR UNLINED) WITH A LEATHER SWEATBAND AND AN ADJUSTING RIBBON THREADED THROUGH THE BINDING. THE BERET IS EQUIPPED WITH A STIFFENER ON THE LEFT FRONT FOR THE ATTACHMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL FLASHES AND INSIGNIA.

B. THE BERET IS THE BASIC HEADGEAR FOR UTILITY UNIFORMS IN GARRISON ENVIRONMENTS. THE BERET IS NOT WORN IN THE FIELD, IN TRAINING ENVIRONMENTS, OR IN ENVIRONMENTS WHERE THE WEAR OF THE BERET IS IMPRACTICAL, AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMANDER. ADDITIONALLY, THE BERET IS NOT WORN ON DEPLOYMENTS UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMANDER. PERSONNEL BEING TRANSFERRED FROM ONE ORGANIZATION TO ANOTHER MAY CONTINUE TO WEAR THE BERET AND FLASH OF THE FORMER UNIT UNTIL THEY REPORT FOR DUTY AT THE NEW ORGANIZATION.

C. THE BERET IS WORN SO THAT THE HEADBAND (EDGE BINDING) IS STRAIGHT ACROSS THE FOREHEAD, 1 INCH ABOVE THE EYEBROWS. THE FLASH IS POSITIONED OVER THE LEFT EYE, AND THE EXCESS MATERIAL IS DRAPED OVER TO THE RIGHT EAR, EXTENDING TO AT LEAST THE TOP OF THE EAR, AND NO LOWER THAN THE MIDDLE OF THE EAR. PERSONNEL WILL CUT OFF THE ENDS OF THE ADJUSTING RIBBON AND SECURE THE RIBBON KNOT INSIDE THE EDGE BINDING AT THE BACK OF THE BERET. WHEN WORN PROPERLY, THE BERET IS FORMED TO THE SHAPE OF THE HEAD; THEREFORE, SOLDIERS MAY NOT WEAR HAIRSTYLES THAT CAUSE DISTORTION OF THE BERET.

D. THE ARMY FLASH IS THE ONLY FLASH AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR ON THE BLACK BERET, UNLESS AUTHORIZATION FOR ANOTHER FLASH WAS GRANTED BEFORE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BLACK BERET AS THE STANDARD ARMY HEADGEAR {FOR EXAMPLE, OPPOSING FORCES (OPFOR) ELEMENTS}.

E. ALL OTHER PROVISIONS OF AR 670-1 REMAIN UNCHANGED.

3. HQDA (DALO-SMT LOGISTICS) POC IS MRS. BRYANT-HARPER, DSN 224-0956, FAX 2245-5016; AND THE WEAR POLICY IS SGM MORALES, DAPE-HRPR-IRPD, DSN 426-5129 AND FAX IS 426-5635.